

BITING SPEECH MAKES PROTEST IN THE SENATE AGAINST SEARCH

Papal Secretary of State Issues Statement on Action of the French Government.

EXECUTIVE NEEDS CURBING BITTER ARTICLE PUBLISHED

INSPIRED PUBLICATION ASSAILS
ACTION OF FRENCH

Rome, Dec. 12.—Cardinal Merry de Val, the papal secretary of state, is preparing a vigorously worded protest against the action of the French government in searching the archives of the nunciature at Paris. This protest will be handed to the members of the diplomatic body accredited to the vatican. The secretary of state sets forth among other things, that the incident in question is the first instance in history of such a violation of the rights of man.

The *Osservatore Romano* is published an article which was composed at the vatican. This article declares that the "violent and odious measures taken by the French government against Monsignor Montagnini," which was merely a pretext for the archives of the nunciature at Paris, constitutes a case of exceptional gravity. It was impossible to foresee or conceive of such a measure. It will have its echo in the condemnation and protest of the "pious people, not only in France, but in every other part of the world." It represents "the last and most brutal step in a situation prepared by the government of the French republic. "When it was intended to remove the churches in France to the clergy," the article continues, "the French government imposed conditions which could not be accepted without an indecorous surrender of the rights of the church. The French government wanted war. The first shot fired, as Premier Clemenceau calls it, shows that the issue of the dignity, as competing together shamefully." The probable entrance of the residence of Monsignor Montagnini besides being unjustified, is absurd, and it is also absurd that the stronghold of the church archives relating to 30,000 Frenchmen.

Didn't Violate Concordat.

"It is true the pope-appointed bishops without consulting the French government," the article goes on, "according to this matter being impossible, but the pope did not violate the concordat or renounce it. He was only admitting that the regulations of the concordat had ceased to be operative, the situation did not authorize the violating of the Vatican archives, which contain the objects of interest to other states besides France."

"The French government has refused to see in the pope a common father, and considers him only as a foreign sovereign. Well, this foreign sovereign has the right to demand that his laws be violated and his archives and papers not be touched or searched by any one," declares the newspaper. "When such an affront has been perpetrated against the faith, without awaiting the judgment of history, the pope has to judge the tribunal of the civilized world as a gratuitous offense, an offense, however, which will bring more shame and harm to those who commit it than to the pope himself, if indeed, the French government is not grossly mistaken if it thinks with such procedure to intimidate the French clergy or to break down the dutiful and legitimate resistance of the church. This rude pontiff is but a new argument for him to continue bravely in the same path."

Sympathy for Pope.

There is a broad and far-reaching movement on foot to express sympathy and with loyalty to the pope under the present circumstances, and expressions of such sentiment are being received from clurchmen all over the world, from cardinals down to the humblest priests. In Rome, however, the manifestations of sympathy are not unnamous, for today the anti-cclical clubs raised a soft, faint, timid building illuminated, and they have no manifestoes to celebrate what they term the "triumph of civil liberty." Some anti-cclical even attempted to placard the colonnades of St. Peter's with anti-vatican inscriptions, but they were prevented by the police. An anti-clerical demonstration is being organ-

zed for next Sunday. The authorities probably will not allow it to be held in public, but it may be permitted if held in a church. The admission fee is \$1. The Vatican is convinced that the French government, with what church officials call "Briand's blackmailing circular" and the offense against the rights of man committed when the government expelled Monsignor Montagnini and took possession of the papal archives, has placed the position maintained by the church on a sound basis, which insures her the moral support of all rights-minded Catholics. Referring to his report, Cardinal Montini, Val, the papal secretary of state, said, "It is essential to victory."

Successor Is Named.

The vatican has already designated

another prelate to take the place of Monsignor Montagnini for the purpose of facilitating communication between the holy see and the French episcopacy and clergy. The name of this man, however, is kept secret to avoid "per-

Several months ago Monsignor Montagnini asked the papal secretary of state to allow him to return to Italy because of the death of his mother. The secretary replied that he would be glad to.

secretary replied that he would be glad to grant this permission, but he wanted Monsignor Montagnini to consider whether it would be opportune to leave his post at a moment when the French government might seize the occasion

not to allow him to re-enter France. Monsignor Montagnini therefore remained at his post. This incident is

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